



National Validation of the Vulnerability Profile of Zambia and the Impact Study of AfCFTA on Zambia's Prospects for Structural Transformation

**Neelkanth Sarovar Premiere Hotel
Lusaka, Zambia
10 to 11 October 2023**

Annotated Provisional Agenda

I. Background

The Vulnerability Profile of Zambia is mandated by General Assembly resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004, which states that “after a country has fulfilled the criteria for graduation for the first time, UNCTAD is mandated to prepare a vulnerability profile on the identified country to be considered by the Committee for Development (CDP) at its following triennial review.”

First included in the United Nations list of least developed countries (LDCs) in 1991, Zambia, was found pre-eligible for graduation by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) at its 2021 triennial review. The CDP will decide whether to recommend Zambia for graduation at its next triennial review of the LDC category in 2024.

The inception mission to officially launch the process of preparing Zambia's national Vulnerability Profile was undertaken by UNCTAD on 4 to 7 October 2022, following which UNCTAD has completed the present draft for national validation. In parallel to the process, UNCTAD collaborated with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) on a study to assess how the continental integration can be used as a lever for the development of certain economic sectors and activities which can contribute to the structural economic transformation of Zambia. The initial findings of the study will also be presented during the workshop.

II. Objectives

The objective of the workshop is to validate the Vulnerability Profile and thereby identify key elements towards a national roadmap for graduation with momentum centred on addressing and mitigating identified vulnerabilities.

The workshop will therefore serve as a platform for policy dialogue among stakeholders on the key vulnerabilities and attendant consequences highlighted in the Vulnerability Profile. The discussions will be aimed at identifying feasible policies for building strategic resilience against the vulnerabilities. In this regard, each working session is designed to enable a deeper understanding of the challenges raised by the Vulnerability Profile and identifying policy options. Issues to be interrogated include:

- The key areas of vulnerabilities that must be tackled.
- The prospects, opportunities and challenges Zambia is likely to face on the road to graduation and post-graduation from the LDC category.
- The policy options and strategies necessary to address the identified challenges, including related constraints on productive capacities and structural economic transformation.
- Potential limitations in institutional capacity, including the importance of inter-ministerial coordination.
- The role of development partners in supporting Zambia in its efforts to build productive capacities and sustaining developmental momentum.

III. PROGRAMME OF WORK

DAY 1: PEOPLE, PROSPERITY AND PLANET	
10 OCTOBER 2023	
08:30 – 09:00	Registration
OPENING SESSION <i>Moderator: Ms. Matfobhi RIBA, UNCTAD</i>	
09:00 – 10:00	<p>Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Mwila DAKA, Coordinator on LDC Issues, Acting Director– Development Planning, Ministry of Finance and National Planning • Mr. Paul AKIWUMI, UNCTAD, Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes • Ms. Eunice KAMWENDO, Director, SRO-SA, representing UN Resident Coordinator, Zambia • Honourable Mr Situmbeko MUSOKOTWANE, M.P., Minister of Finance and National Planning
10:00 – 10:30	Group Photo and Tea/Coffee Break
SESSION I: INTRODUCTION <i>-Setting the scene and objectives of the workshop.</i> <i>Moderator: Ms. Matfobhi RIBA, UNCTAD</i>	
10:30 – 11:00	<p>The LDC graduation process and the role of CDP rapporteurs <i>Ms. Anne-Laure KIECHEL, CDP Rapporteur for Zambia</i></p> <p>The Vulnerability Profile and UNCTAD’s role in the graduation process <i>Mr. Junior DAVIS, UNCTAD, Head of Policy Analysis and Research Branch, ALDC Africa</i></p> <p>ECA’s contribution to the Vulnerability Profile and support to African countries in the implementation of the AfCFTA <i>Ms. Eunice KAMWENDO, Director, Economic Commission for Africa, Sub-regional Office for Southern</i></p>
SESSION II: PEOPLE AND PROSPERITY: SITUATION ANALYSIS AND KEY VULNERABILITIES <i>The session will discuss Zambia’s recent economic growth performance and development trajectory, benchmarked against regional and other LDCs. It will identify the key economic vulnerabilities and the strategic policy options for accelerating structural transformation, building economic resilience, and improving trade performance.</i> <i>Moderator: Mr. Patrick CHILESHE, Africa Trade and Investment Development Insurance</i>	
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Presentation: People and prosperity: Situation analysis and key vulnerabilities <i>Mr. Benjamin Mattondo BANDA, UNCTAD, Economic Affairs Officer</i></p> <p>Discussants (5 minutes each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, • Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry • Zambia Development Agency

	Interactive Discussions
13:00-14:00	Lunch Break
SESSION III: PLANET	
<p><i>The transition to a green economy has been identified as a pathway that could unlock economic opportunities for structural transformation and economic diversification. This session will discuss findings of the vulnerability profile in relation to Zambia’s environmental and climate vulnerabilities.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Matfobhi RIBA, UNCTAD.</p>	
14:00-15:40	<p>Presentation: Planet: Zambia’s environmental and climate vulnerabilities. <i>Mr. Benjamin Mattondo BANDA, UNCTAD, Economic Affairs Officer</i></p> <p>Discussants (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insights on the challenges Zambia faces in transitioning to a green economy <i>Mr. Samuel BWALYA, Independent Expert.</i> • Perspectives on Zambia’s preparedness for a low-carbon transition <i>[Ministry of Green Economy and Environment]</i> • Opportunities for job creation from the low-carbon transition <i>[Ministry of Labour and Social Security]</i> • UN Zambia programme support on green structural transformation <i>Mr. Vincent Ziba, FAO Zambia.</i> <p>Interactive Discussions</p>
15:40-16:00	Tea/Coffee Break
SESSION IV: REGIONAL TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ZAMBIA	
<p><i>The AfCFTA presents challenges and opportunities for countries that are on the verge of graduating from the LDC category. The discussions in the session will focus on how Zambia should position itself to seize the opportunities.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Rodgers MUKWAYA, Economic Commission for Africa</p>	
16:00–17:00	<p>Presentation: Can the AfCFTA be an engine for industrialization in Zambia? <i>Mr. Mulenga, Economic Commission for Africa</i></p> <p>Discussants (5 minutes each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparedness of local industries to engage with the AfCFTA <i>[Ministry of Commerce, Trade, and Industry]</i> • Policy options to accelerate economic diversification and industrialization through the AfCFTA <i>[UNIDO]</i> • Policy coordination for promoting intra-regional trade: insights from COMESA’s experience. <i>Mr. Christopher ONYANGO, The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa</i> <p>Interactive Discussions</p>

DAY 2: 11 OCTOBER 2023	PEACE AND PARTNERSHIPS
SESSION V: PEACE AND PARTNERSHIPS <p>The LDC category was established to garner international support for poorer countries to achieve self-sustaining growth. Considering the prominence of LDC-specific international support measures that will be phased out post-graduation, this session will discuss the challenges and opportunities available to Zambia as the country transitions to developing country status.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Sylvia MWAMBA, IDinsight</p>	
09:00-10:45	<p>Presentation: Peace and partnership: Situation analysis and key vulnerabilities <i>Ms. Matfobhi RIBA, UNCTAD, Economic Affairs Officer</i></p> <p>Panel discussions (5 min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospects for regional and international trade agreements to advance structural transformation in Africa/Zambia <i>[AfCFTA Secretariat]</i> • Obstacles to implementing industrial development in the context of FTAs, RTAs and the WTO <i>Mr. Rodgers MUKWAYA, Economic Commission for Africa</i> • Preparedness of the local private sector to utilise opportunities from the AfCFTA, and other trade preferences. <i>[Zambia Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry]</i> <p>Interactive Discussions</p>
10:45-11:00	Tea/Coffee Break
SESSION VI: BREAKOUT SESSION AND GROUP WORK <p><i>The national roadmap/action plan for graduation is a key output of the Validation Workshop. This session will explore priority actions for building developmental momentum in the transition towards graduation that should constitute elements of the roadmap.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Benjamin Mattondo BANDA, UNCTAD</p>	
11:00– 13:00	<p>Presentation: Introduction to the Roadmap on Graduation with Momentum/Guiding Questions/Reporting and Format <i>Mr. Benjamin Mattondo BANDA, UNCTAD, Economic Affairs Officer</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group A: Building productive capacities: Investing in human capital, innovation, and technology. • Group B: Economic diversification
13:00-15:00	Lunch Break

SESSION VI: A ROADMAP TOWARDS ACCELERATING GRADUATION WITH MOMENTUM

This session will synthesize the outcome of the groupwork and present a draft roadmap/action plan.

Moderator: Ms. Matfobhi RIBA , UNCTAD

15:00– 16:00 PRESENTATION OF THE GRADUATION ROADMAP/ACTION PLAN: OUTCOME OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Mr. Benjamin Mattondo BANDA, UNCTAD, Economic Affairs Officer

- **Plenary Discussions**

16:00-16:15 **Tea/Coffee Break**

CLOSURE OF WORKSHOP

16:15-17:00 **Next Steps**

- Ms. Matfobhi RIBA, UNCTAD

Closing remarks

- Mr. Paul AKIWUMI, UNCTAD, Director, Division for Africa, Least Developed Countries and Special Programmes
- Ms. Lois MULUBE, Coordinator on LDC Issues, Acting Permanent Secretary– Planning and Administration, Ministry of Finance and National Planning

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